

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: December 4, 2005  
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## FIELD CROPS

Harvesting activities Statewide were slowed this week due to rain, but the moisture enhanced the emergence of winter forage and **wheat**. **Cotton** plowdown was in full swing in Southern California. Grain planting for **barley**, **oat**, wheat, and winter forage crops continued. A few **alfalfa** hay fields in Tulare County were cut for silage, and some were set aside for sheep grazing. In most parts of the State, alfalfa harvest was complete, and dormant herbicide applications began. In Fresno County, **sugar beet** fields were planted, and herbicide applications were ongoing in newly emerged fields. Also in Fresno, harvesting of **corn** fields for silage was completed for the season. **Rice** fields in Glenn county were flooded to assist in the decomposition of the rice stubble.

## FRUIT CROPS

Small amounts of late-variety table **grapes** continued to be harvested in the San Joaquin Valley, including Crimson Seedless and Christmas Rose. Raisin grape growers continued to remove terraces, level the drives between rows, and irrigate. Stone fruit growers were busy with post-harvest activities such as pruning, irrigating, weeding, and manure and compost spreading. Many stone fruit trees were treated with lime in order to force them into dormancy. Tree fruit growers were also busy removing old and nonproductive trees, cultivating, and applying pre-emergent herbicides. The harvesting of **apples**, **kiwifruit**, **persimmons**, and **pomegranates** was ongoing, and good yields were reported. **Blueberry** fields were trimmed. Applications of copper and lime for fungus control, weed control, and irrigation continued in several citrus groves. Navel **orange** picking and packing slowed due to the holidays, but gradually resumed to normal activity. Frosty mornings were beneficial to citrus fruit, making the rind tougher and improving the fruit shelf life. Most of the Valencia orange crop was being packed for the domestic market due to soft fruit. Some packers were sending juice trucks to the field to remove overly mature Valencia oranges to send directly to juice plants. Oroblancos, Pummelos, and **grapefruit** hybrids were starting to be picked and packed in the San Joaquin Valley. The **tangerine** harvest was over fifty percent complete. Zutano **avocado** harvest increased with maturity. **Olive** orchards were pruned.

## NUT CROPS

The **pecan** harvest continued in the Clovis district, where trees were being shaken and the nuts swept up from the orchard floors. **Chestnut** harvest continued in some small groves. Growers of other nuts were pruning orchards and stacking brush for removal.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Iceberg **lettuce** harvest was complete, and **carrot** harvest was in full swing in Kern County. In Imperial County, harvest was just beginning for carrots, **cabbage**, **cauliflower**, and head, leaf, and Romaine lettuce. Early season lettuce, **broccoli**, and cauliflower were showing effects from whitefly damage in the Imperial Valley. Seedlings had begun to emerge from the earlier planted **onions** fields, while onions for processing were being transplanted, and soil fumigation continued. Lettuce and broccoli fields were still being irrigated, weeded and sprayed for worms and other insects in the San Joaquin Valley. Asian vegetables, baby leaf spring mix, **basil**, broccoli, **chili peppers**, **cilantro**, **cucumbers**, **dill**, fall **melons**, **green beans**, **parsley**, **radicchio**, sweet **corn**, and winter **squash** continued to be harvested. Growers were fixing their greenhouses for the winter season.

## LIVESTOCK

Winter foothill pastures received much needed rain, and new grass growth had started in some areas. Colder night-time temperatures late in the period slowed grass growth. Dry grass from last winter and spring was sustaining cattle. Many cattle were still being fed protein supplements. Fall calving of beef cows was winding down. Many ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields or retired farm land in the Central Valley. Fall lambing had neared completion. Feeder lambs in the Imperial Valley were grazing in alfalfa, bermuda, and sudan fields. Out-of-State beekeepers were still bringing bees into California to spend the winter.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/04/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/04/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/04/05	January 1 - 12/04/05	Week Ending 12/04/05	July 1 - 12/04/05	July 1 - 12/04/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	45	-5	59	33	6	0	3.62	15.97	10.71	37.53
Ukiah	44	-4	61	28	1,425	1,454	3.73	7.72	9.21	37.96
Santa Rosa	47	-3	59	29	773	923	2.71	5.48	7.30	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	52	0	61	40	524	443	1.43	2.63	4.16	19.70
San Jose	53	1	65	39	1,285	1,334	1.38	1.68	3.21	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,599	1,457	0.00	0.00	3.14	14.21
Salinas AP	53	1	69	31	452	432	0.53	1.07	2.66	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	0	65	36	160	145	0.86	1.31	4.19	18.72
King City	53	2	70	28	1,260	1,043	0.63	1.10	2.32	11.44
Paso Robles AP	50	1	69	25	1,618	1,552	0.35	0.86	2.26	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	42	-6	56	28	2,583	2,504	4.44	7.69	7.47	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	43	-5	57	31	2,484	2,610	1.83	6.26	5.90	22.29
Chico AFS	45	-3	58	28	2,353	2,043	1.44	4.95	5.89	26.32
Marysville	45	-4	57	30	2,354	2,442	1.47	4.07	5.01	21.04
Sacramento AP	47	-2	60	31	1,954	1,932	1.42	2.32	3.85	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	49	1	62	32	2,332	2,214	0.37	1.15	3.24	13.95
Fresno	50	2	62	34	2,979	2,792	0.37	0.71	2.19	10.60
Bakersfield	52	2	72	36	3,049	3,128	0.64	1.22	1.27	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	1	72	34	442	410	0.92	3.73	2.36	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	0	71	33	563	736	0.46	3.77	2.90	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,053	940	0.00	0.00	2.51	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-2	69	43	2,120	2,454	0.08	1.61	2.11	14.77
Riverside	57	1	78	39	2,653	2,377	0.10	1.74	1.64	9.58
San Diego AP	59	0	67	47	1,704	1,798	0.16	1.01	1.99	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	1	67	17	1,655	1,552	0.66	1.89	1.30	5.37
Lancaster	49	3	71	20	2,429	2,343	0.00	2.58	1.41	6.92
Daggett AP	52	1	80	28	3,879	3,937	0.00	1.00	1.56	3.93
Thermal AP	55	-1	75	32	5,104	4,870	0.00	2.08	1.39	3.16
Blythe	55	-1	74	37	5,462	5,381	0.00	2.20	2.02	3.60
Imperial	56	-3	75	34	5,319	5,159	0.00	1.81	1.34	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	28	-5	50	8	558	296	0.85	4.26	3.71	12.01
Mt. Shasta	31	-5	45	17	702	446	3.76	9.36	9.89	37.02
Blue Canyon	34	-7	43	24	877	574	8.98	15.13	17.11	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,295	1,090	0.00	0.00	9.46	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.